29th November 1928]

Mr. C. RAMASOMAYAJULU :—" Are the Government aware that the general opinion in the country—it is mentioned in the papers too—is that it is on account of the insufficient number of well-spanned bridges and culverts that the railway line has been washed away ? "

The hon. Mr. T. E. MOIR :—" I am not aware of it."

Stationery

Tenders for ink, etc., supplied by the Superintendent of Stationery.

*981 Q.—Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR: Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state—

(a) the different kinds of ink and the quantities thereof ordered for by the Superintendent of Stationery during the current and the three previous years and the names of the suppliers whose tenders were finally accepted by him and their rates; and

(b) whether before entering into a contract for the supply of the articles needed by him, the Superintendent of Stationery invited tenders for their supply and, in doing so, whether he furnished any specification of the materials required according to recognized standards such as those obtaining in foreign countries and in the Government of India ?

A.—(a) A statement [a] is laid on the table. It is not desirable to publish the rates.

(b) Tenders were not called for in 1925–26, 1926–27 and 1927–28, but orders were placed with the Director of Industries and other suppliers after obtaining samples and quotations. For 1928–29, tenders are called for in open market. Such specifications were not furnished.

Agency

Resolution of the Agency Conference regarding the abolition of the Agency Educational Officer.

*982 Q.—Sriman BISWANATH DAS Mahasayo: Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that the Agency Conference held in 1927 resolved to abolish the post of Agency Educational Officer and if so, the reasons for the same ;

(b) whether the Director of Public Instruction and the Educational department have finally come to any conclusion ; and

(c) if the office is abolished, the means devised to carry on the work of supervision ?

A.—(a) The Conference of Agency Officers held in February 1928 did make such a recommendation. The Conference was of opinion that the office of the Agency Educational Officer caused delay between the Special Assistant Agents and the supervisors of schools.

(b) & (c) The question is under the consideration of Government.

Sriman BISWANATH DAS Mahasayo :—" With reference to (a) may I know whether there are instances of the delay said to have been caused in the correspondence and if so who is responsible for it, the Special Assistant Agents or the Agency Educational Officer ? "

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[a] Printed as Appendix XVIII on pages 546–547 infra.